

## After All, the Real Question Is Cuba

### CUBAN CRISIS IS AT HAND

Events and Preparations at Washington Can Mean But This One Thing.

Report of the Maine Board of Inquiry Will Reach the President Not Later Than Tomorrow Morning.

If the Report Shows Spain Responsible for the Maine's Destruction There Will Be But One Thing to Do and That One Thing Will Be Done.

But Even If It Should Exonerate Spain or Declare the Agency Doubtful, the Cuban Question Remains to Settle, and It Will Be Settled.

Washington, March 23.—The feeling was universal throughout official circles today that the culmination of the Spanish crisis was near at hand. With the report of the Maine court of inquiry only a little while off, with the White House the center of long and earnest conferences between the president and the party leaders of congress and with exceptional activity towards emergency preparations in the war and navy departments, there was abundance of evidence that definite results regarding the Maine disaster and the Cuban situation in general also were to be reached.

Among the secretary's callers were Senator Cockrell, Turpie and Foraker. General Dan Sickles, former United States minister to Madrid, and Representative William Alden Smith of Michigan, who has recently returned from a trip to Cuba. The call of Messrs. Cockrell and Turpie was regarded as particularly significant, as they are representative Democrats in the senate, and their visit followed that of Senator Gorman yesterday. It was generally understood that in the present emergency the president desires patriotic unity, without reference to party. Secretaries Long and Alger also conferred with the president during the day.

#### THE MAINE REPORT.

Secretary Long said later that the Maine report probably would reach Washington tomorrow night. If, however, it did not come before 8 o'clock Thursday evening, Mr. Long said he probably would not receive it until Friday morning, when it would be laid before the president immediately. The secretary did not think the president would give the document any attention at a late hour. It was more probable, he thought, if Lieutenant Marsh arrived at a late hour, that he would take the report to a hotel for the night.

There has been no change in the plan of sending the report to congress early next week, probably Monday, accompanied by a message from the president. It is definitely settled, however, that the message and the papers accompanying it will relate exclusively to the Maine disaster. It will not take up the fearful condition of affairs in Cuba, as shown by the reports of the United States consuls, these being reserved for subsequent action and a later message to congress.

#### SHIFTING THE MONITORS.

Secretary Long determined today to order the double-turreted monitors Porcupine and Terror to Key West, where they will reinforce the squadron in those waters. He also determined to bring into force the eight single-turreted monitors at League Island navy yards, Philadelphia, two of which will be sent to Boston, two to New York, and four held in reserve at Philadelphia. The Porcupine and Terror took the place of the battleships Massachusetts and Texas, recently withdrawn from the squadron at Key West. It was stated at the navy department that this move was in accord with a program previously agreed upon, although this program has not been announced heretofore. The Porcupine, by many experts, is regarded as the most formidable fighting machine in the navy.

#### CUTTERS FOR COAST GUARDS.

In addition to its other preparations for possible trouble, the navy department today took steps towards utilizing ten of the sea-going revenue cutters for use along the Atlantic coast. Captain Shoenberger, chief of the revenue cutter service, conferred with Assistant Secretary Roosevelt during the day on the plans for turning over these cutters to the navy. They will be first sent to Norfolk, where additional guns will be mounted, and then will proceed to Key West and become a part of the squadron there.

Their main service, however, will be as naval pickets, a chain of these fleet cutters being maintained outside of the cruisers and battleships. The revenue cutter service has been ready for some time, and active service is in progress. Six cutters, of which four are on the Atlantic coast. The others are in course of construction at Cleveland and, with rush work can be completed and ready for service in from thirty to sixty days.

THE MAIN QUESTION. The feeling was universal throughout official circles today that the culmination of the Spanish crisis was near at hand. With the report of the Maine court of inquiry only a little while off, with the White House the center of long and earnest conferences between the president and the party leaders of congress and with exceptional activity towards emergency preparations in the war and navy departments, there was abundance of evidence that definite results regarding the Maine disaster and the Cuban situation in general also were to be reached.

WORK AT DRY TORTUGAS. The navy department opened bids today for extensive improvements at Dry Tortugas and Key West, a formal transfer

officers mentioned as possible successors to Admiral Seward are Admiral Buncie, commandant of the New York yard, and Captain Sampson, president of the Maine court of inquiry.

#### IF M'KINLEY IS LET BE

He Will Free Cuba Peacefully, Senator Elkins Says. Washington, March 23.—"The independence of Cuba can be obtained without war, if President McKinley is left alone and is not forced by the extreme Cuban sympathizers," said Senator Elkins today, who at the same time announced that he was doing what he could to prevent hasty action in the senate and urging senators to give the president time to carry out his own policy. Mr. Elkins said that, in his opinion, the president should be cared for and that peaceful means would bring about the freedom of Cuba. It is known that a great deal of work has been done about the senate by senators who are known as conservatives. Resolutions have been made that the senate await the action of the president and that no further attempts be made to intensify the strained situation. It was asserted by Senator Elkins that a great deal of progress had been made and that on both sides of the chamber a great deal more conservatism had been found than was supposed to exist.

#### PURELY ON HUMANE GROUNDS

Cuba Not to Be Freed as Part of a Nation's Vengeance. Washington, March 23.—The prevailing impression among the Republican leaders of the house is that the president will intervene in Cuba on humane grounds, but it is positively stated by one of them who is close to the president, that the intervention will not come until after the report of the board of inquiry into the Maine disaster goes to congress. "The two questions will be treated separately," said he today, "and the message relative to Cuba will be sent to congress soon after the report on the Maine question."

The Cuban message, as forecasted by a prominent Republican, will waive the question of the Maine disaster, and putting aside that awful occurrence, will in effect be a declaration to Spain that the present method of war in Cuba must cease. It will result in intervention in case Spain demurs. The message will be accompanied by the reports of the consuls in Cuba.

Mr. Dooliver (Rep., Iowa) says that intervention on humane grounds will place our action upon a moral level that would command the broad sympathy of the world. We cannot afford, he says, to waive all questions as to the Maine, if the board does not fix the disaster on Spain, in order to make the greater issue.

A prominent member of the house, who has been several times in consultation with the president recently, and who possesses as much unofficial information of the cause of the Maine disaster as the president himself, says that while the report of the board will not fix the responsibility for the explosion, it will be startling in its nature. The information at the capital is that already \$25,000,000 of the \$50,000,000 appropriated for the national defense has been expended or contracts entered into for its expenditure.

#### ADMIRAL SICARD'S REMARK

That the Maine Case Is Peculiarly Discouragingly Interpreted.

Washington, March 23.—The remark attributed to Admiral Sicard at Key West yesterday, to the effect that the case of the Maine was perhaps the most peculiar in the history of modern times, is interpreted here as clearly indicating that the direct responsibility for the explosion cannot be placed. During the progress of the investigation the law officers of the government have been giving the local officials of the case their close attention, and the statement is made that the case of the Maine is indeed most peculiar. The records, it is said, do not show that ever before, in the intercourse of nations, has a vessel of one power been destroyed in the waters of another without the cause of the disaster and responsibility being known beyond dispute by any other nation. If the court of inquiry has found, as is generally believed, that the responsibility for the loss of the Maine cannot be definitely located, the fact will present a new feature to the long list of otherwise similar disasters.

#### COOLIDGE PREDICTS WAR

And That Spain Will Be the One to Begin.

Boston, March 23.—Honorable T. Jefferson Coolidge, ex-minister to France, in an interview today on the Spain-Cuba situation, said: "I believe that we are going to have war, and that Spain will declare it when we interfere with Cuba. I do not think that the Spanish doctors could keep it place if it did not declare war when the United States undertakes to free Cuba."

#### EASY TO CAPTURE HAVANA

What General Grant Thought of It Back in 1893. New York, March 23.—The remarkable disclosure is made by Leslie's Weekly in this week's issue that on April 9, 1893, General U. S. Grant wrote to General Adam Badeau, telling how easy it would be for the United States to capture Havana by a combined attack by our land and naval forces. In this letter, which is printed in full in Leslie's Weekly, General Grant says that "the hostility of the native population to Spain, and the fact that the city is situated on a comparatively easy task for any first-class power, and especially easy for the United States, in case of war with Spain."

#### SPAIN CAN'T HELP HERSELF

Matter of Sending Relief May Give McKinley His Chance. Washington, March 23.—The suggestion made in the senate committee on appropriations for an appropriation to relieve the destitute Cubans is one of the results of the conference yesterday between the president and Senators Allen and Gorman, and it is the understanding in the committee that the president will follow the suggestion with a request to congress that the appropriation be made. He thinks it is as well that the money with which to relieve the distress of the Cu-

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### MARIX MAKES HASTE

He is Borne to Washington by Special Train.

#### BEARS THE MAINE REPORT

Closely Guarded by Himself and Companions.

#### DENIES A GOOD STORY

Says He Never Said: "It Looks Like War"—Different Plans Which Are Open to the President.

Jacksonville, Fla., March 23.—Lieutenant Commander Marix, bearing to Washington the findings of the Maine court of inquiry, reached this city at 7:45 o'clock tonight, and left at 8 o'clock via the Florida Central and Peninsular and Southern, and will reach Washington at 9:25 p. m., Thursday night. The railroad wires have carried the message down the line to use all dispatch. This practically makes a special of the Marix train, and without accident, Washington will be reached on the dot.

Lieutenant Commander Marix was accompanied by the following officers of the Maine: Lieutenant Hood, Lieutenant Jungen, Assistant Engineer F. C. Bowers, Naval Cadet Bronson and Carpenter George Helms. Upon arrival here the party went at once to the Pullman car that was awaiting them, and in fifteen minutes were hurrying to Washington as rapidly as steam could take them. During the short time of the stay in this city an Associated Press reporter showed Lieutenant Marix a dispatch from Miami that appeared in the afternoon paper in which he is quoted as saying: "It looks like war; it certainly does."

He utterly denied it. "I have said nothing of the kind. I don't talk about this matter."

All efforts to get him to make any expression of opinion were futile. Other members of the party were equally non-committal.

During the transfer from one train to the other, Lieutenant Marix was closely guarded by the members of his party. He walked between two of his friends carrying a dispatch bag covered with black cloth. He hid him the officers of his party walked closely.

They walked rapidly and did not stop to speak to any one until they were safely in the car.

#### SAYS IT LOOKS LIKE WAR

Lieutenant Commander Marix Lets Fall Significant Words.

Miami, Fla., March 23.—Lieutenant Commander Marix, of the Maine court of inquiry, with the following party, arrived here this morning from Key West: Lieutenant John Hood, Lieutenant C. W. Jungen, Passed Assistant Engineer F. A. Bowers, Cadets Amos Bronson and J. Lloyd, Assistant Engineer J. R. Morris and Carpenter G. Helms. A few minutes later they left by the East Coast railway for Washington. Lieutenant Commander Marix was very reticent, but when our correspondent said: "It looks like war," he replied, "It surely does." Others of the party in answer to the same question, were more emphatic. "It looks like war," one said. "I cannot see how it can be avoided." Another, in answer to the same question, said: "There will be no war." His face was as genial and bright as sunshine, but suddenly a change came over his countenance, his eyes flashed fire, and when asked when the report would be made, he replied: "As soon as we reach Washington; there will be no delay."

The strong impression left here was that the board's report would be against the accident theory.

Washington, March 23.—In the navy department the developments of the morning for the moment directed attention from the report of the court of inquiry, which is now on its way to Washington in charge of Judge Advocate Marix. In addition to the press dispatches concerning Lieutenant Marix's trip, Secretary Long received his own official advice that the officer is on his way. The expectation among the officials is that Lieutenant Marix will arrive Friday morning, although his train may reach here Thursday night. There are no plans for meeting him or for any formalities on his arrival. He will come direct to Secretary Long and place the report in his hands. The secretary will convey it at once to the president. This will give an opportunity for its consideration by the cabinet at the regular meeting on Friday. After delivering the report, Lieutenant Marix will return to his post on the Vermont at New York, unless the court of inquiry has further investigation to make, which it not at all likely.

#### LA LUCHA ON THE REPORT

Regrets That the Board of Inquiry Hurried Matters So. Havana, March 23.—La Lucha, in an editorial under the caption of "Expectation in the World," maintains that the American court of inquiry could not give a scientific report on the Maine disaster. "American naval officers," says La Lucha, "are not likely to decide against brother officers. The divers could not give expert testimony, owing to the fact that the machinery was submerged four feet in the mud. It is greatly to be regretted that more time and care were not given to the preparation of a report for which the whole world waits, and which is likely to change the entire feelings of a part of the American people toward Spain and Cuba."

La Lucha publishes also an interview with General Lee, which quotes

him as saying that he knows nothing of the nature of the report, but is satisfied that General Blanco never conceived the disaster until he heard the shock in the harbor.

Gunner Morgan left for the fleet at Key West today. With him went the naval divers, Fisher, Rundquist and Schluter, and Hans, the helper. Hans belongs to the Fern and has been ill. This leaves two naval divers and five civilians on the contract work.

The body of a white man was found in the forward part of the wreck today. It will probably be identified by marks on the clothing when the latter have been disinfected. The body was sent by Key West on the Olive.

No orders have yet been received by the Maine officers to go north.

Four Red Cross society nurses are expected to arrive by the Ward line steamer today.

#### BLANDIN TELLS NO TALES

But Says the Court Knows Its Work and Will Do It.

Baltimore, March 23.—Lieutenant John Blandin of Baltimore, who was officer of the deck on the battleship Maine when the vessel was blown up in Havana harbor on the night of February 15, and who was one of the most important witnesses before the naval court of inquiry at Key West and Havana, arrived here last night from Key West. To a reporter Lieutenant Blandin said:

"Of course you know that I, in company with the other officers and men who were on the Maine at the time of the explosion, are under ironclad orders forbidding the giving of information about the explosion. I left Havana the day after the explosion and until last Thursday have been in Key West. I have been here for the court of inquiry and have told them all I know, and when they have rendered their verdict you may bank on it that it will be a correct one. It was composed of brainy, careful and cool men, who know what they are doing and are doing it thoroughly."

"I have received orders to report on Thursday in Washington in order to stand an examination for promotion to the rank of lieutenant commander."

Lieutenant Blandin was asked whether there was much feeling or excitement in Havana or Key West. He replied:

"If there was any I did not see it. 'General Blough' Lee is certainly the right man in the right place, and is doing great work in Havana. I saw him the night of the explosion, when he came aboard the Washington to see Captain Sigbee."

Lieutenant Blandin said he could say nothing about the probability of war, but if there was to be any fighting he thought that the greater part of it would be done by the navy.

#### AMERICANS NEEDN'T KNOCK

St. Peter Will Open to Them With Out, Say the Rescued Cubans.

New York, March 23.—Louis Klopsch, publisher of the Christian Herald, who is directing the distribution of food and supplies in Cuba, telegraphed to the World from Havana:

"The American relief work in Cuba is in most excellent condition. Heretofore the utter inadequacy of supplies from American sources made operations on a large and satisfactory scale impossible. Today there is enough relief for thirty days' requirements."

On the arrival of the next cargo, due Thursday, every known corner of destitution will immediately be provisioned for ten days, and 200,000 men and women will be sustained by America's practical sympathy, plus the official statement of actual needs thereafter.

"Then the American relief will be as far-reaching as it is possible to make it. Letters and telegrams from consuls and consular agents received by me within three days fully confirm the generally accepted view of the awful destitution. Consul McGarr of Cienfuegos, heretofore incredulous, now reports 15,000 destitute in his consular district and believes it will be worse."

"Tomorrow on Estrella street we open a central station for the relief of 12,000 persons in Havana; also a diet kitchen for 2,000 sick in San Lazaro street. The bakeries in Havana and the suburbs are turning out bread all the flour received. The situation, in a nutshell, is that there are 25,000 recommendations in 42 towns and villages. Three hundred tons of corn meal and fifty tons of bacon weekly can feed them all. They look to America as their only hope and bless its people for the good already done."

"When Americans die," they say, 'For will not wait for them to knock at the heavenly gate, but will open it wide before they knock!'"

#### PERPLEXITIES OF M'KINLEY

His Choice of a Dozen Plans, With Only One Safe and Effective.

Chicago, March 23.—Walter Wellman telegraphs his paper the Times-Herald as follows: "So much depends upon the nature of the verdict of the naval court of inquiry that the president is forced to say to his callers that he is not yet prepared to say what he will do. It is not impossible that the verdict will solve all of the questions now pending or lead directly to their solution. If for instance, it should be determined that the Maine met her fate through a Spanish conspiracy, connived or winked at by high officials of the Spanish government, either in the naval or military branch, there will be nothing for the president to do but to transmit the report to congress with an accompanying message that this act constitutes war upon the United States. The moral that would be sufficient for both houses of congress are ready to meet war with war without delay."

If, upon the other hand, the verdict places the responsibility upon Spain only in the way of negligence, but makes clear negligence clear and unmistakable, the president feels that the best course to pursue is to demand reparation for the wrong and to hold the Cuban question in abeyance till it is seen how Spain proposes to meet the minor question. In other words, with a good case at his back the president prefers to go to Spain upon the Maine affair alone, and to demand of her an indemnity as large—perhaps \$25,000,000 or \$50,000,000—as settlement of it will appease public sentiment in this country and quiet the people in preparation for dealing with the larger question later, or that the other thing will happen."

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### HE HAS SEEN CUBANS DYING

Senator Gallinger Tells his Countrymen As Much As Words Can Tell.

Of Want Compared With Which That of Foodless Hindoos and Armenians Seems Gorged and Sated Opulence.

Matanzas is an Inferno Such as Dante Never Dreamed of—In All Cuba Nearly Half a Million Have Already Died of Starvation.

Little Mention Made of the Maine, Which He Declares Is Not the Main Question—Whoever Blew up the Ship, Cuba Remains to Be Freed.

Washington, March 23.—A vivid word picture of the horrors and barbarities of concentration on the island of Cuba was drawn in the senate today by Mr. Gallinger of New Hampshire. The senator recently visited Cuba to study the situation there. Long before the senate convened the galleries were packed. Almost as soon as the senate convened Mr. Bacon of Georgia introduced a joint resolution declaring that the United States should do everything in its power to preserve peace with all the nations of the world and would not be forced into a war except to preserve the honor and dignity of the nation. He said he would not ask for immediate consideration of the resolution, but would permit it to lie upon the table until tomorrow. Then Mr. Hale (Maine), chairman of the naval affairs committee, quietly rose and favorably reported the bill for relief of the survivors of the Maine catastrophe. There was a suppressed murmur of expectancy in the galleries, but the measure was read and passed without a word of debate. Mr. Gallinger's speech followed. He spoke in a low, clear tone of voice, distinctly audible throughout the chamber. There was not an interruption by word throughout his speech. His auditors listened intently to his description of the horrors and cruelties suffered by the residents of Cuba, and the horrors of the famine that was sweeping the island.

"Save the last, all these efforts have ended in failure. That failure is history and need not be recounted."

Mr. Gallinger then detailed some of the events leading up to his arrival in Cuba and of his reception by General Lee.

#### HIS TRIBUTE TO LEE

"General Lee," he said, "is deserving of the highest possible praise for the manner in which he has carried himself in Havana. Cool and fearless in the midst of difficulties and dangers, he never loses sight of the fact that he is an American citizen, and is the unflinching of the tremendous responsibilities and duties of his position."

#### AUTONOMY A FAILURE

Referring to his call upon the autonomous cabinet, Mr. Gallinger said it was evident that the president of the cabinet was not encouraged in his work.

"The trouble," said Mr. Gallinger, "autonomy is a flat failure, opened alike by the ultra-Spaniards and the Cubans. The leaders of the insurrection have not forgotten how they were treated by Spain in 1878 and the Mapichismans and believe now being offered them are being scorned with contempt. Better death than autonomy," said a leading Cuban to me, for autonomy is only a pretense under which we would again be slaves to Spain."

Mr. Gallinger recalled that he had heard during debates in the senate debate made that a state of war existed in Cuba, but it required only a brief personal observation to convince one that was actually not so. A devastated country and its stricken people told the story more eloquently than it could be conveyed in words.

"The war in Cuba, however," he said, "is a war of starvation and extermination. There is no more cruel than the world has ever known."

CUBANS COULD TAKE HAVANA. The Spanish troops do not oppress Americans as great soldiers. They are under a bad discipline and are poorly uniformed and inadequately fed. The high officials do most of their fighting in hotels and cafes, the actual fighting being done by those of inferior grade. On the contrary, the insurgents are comfortably clothed and well equipped. They occupy a large part of the island, and could in Mr. Gallinger's judgment, take Havana or Matanzas whenever it might suit their purpose, although these cities could not be held for lack of a navy.

#### SCENES OF STARVATION.

The scenes in the streets of Havana are harrowing beyond description. People in want and suffering are everywhere seen and walking skeletons meet one on every hand. Naked children, emaciated and weak, wander the streets, the howling mad women, and diseased and dead. It is a terrible sight—one that strikes the heart and awakens every impulse of human sympathy and love."

#### WORTHY THAN ALIENISM.

"Under the shadow of cathedrals and churches, where Spain's authority is absolutely unquestioned, the most horrible conditions are resorted to exist. Many have refused to believe that a great government was waging a war of extermination instead of a war of honor, yet such is an absolute fact. A visit was made

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